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Pioneer Day At Clinton Center

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(Contributed)

Twenty years ago through the instrumentality of Sheldon Norton and E. M. Peck of Carbondale, a conglomerate rock weighing about six tons was placed in the cemetery at Clinton Center and on that huge stone is a bronze tablet listing the names of the early settlers as well as the early members and pastors of the Clinton Center church.

And on that memorable day, about 400 people from the immediate vicinity and near-by towns, gathered to witness the unveiling and dedication of this monument. At the cemetery a brief history of the first settlers and the early ministers was given by the chairman, E. M. Peck. After repairing [to] the church auditorium Sheldon Norton gave an interesting and instructive address on his boyhood recollections of these pioneer settlers.

At his suggestion, it was voted to set apart a day each year for meeting to commemorate the early settlers. It has been subsequently celebrated on Labor Day for the last two decades.

From time to time as we have listened to the history of the different families, some have dated their ancestry back to Revolutionary soldiers, some to John and Priscilla Alden, and now as we were about to celebrate the Tercentenary of Roger Williams, we unearthed a lineage of his blood.

In 1918, Rev. George Stone (now deceased) a former resident of Clinton was here and gave the history of the West family. During his retirement from the ministry he has lived with his son in Hollywood, Calif. This last winter he spent half a day each week in the Historical Department of Genealogy in the Public Library at Los Angeles. And in his research found he was a descendant of Matthew West. Matthew West was banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony and took refuge with Roger Williams in Rhode Island.